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April 21, 2005

Mrs. Victoria Rutson  
Surface Trans. Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: Finance Doc. # 33407

Dear Mrs. Rutson,

Thanks for your report and all the work you have done regarding the D,M&E rail up grade and expansion project.

I am a southern Minnesota farmer, and I just want your office to know how much we depend on the D,M&E rail system. The rail system supplies us inputs, and then delivers our products to market. Please include farmers in your equation, we need the support of a reliable rail system.

I feel the East-West rail corridor is a national security project. We can not and should not just depend on the freeway system and other roads. Many of these roads are over used, and going into disrepair, because of the heavy truck traffic. We need another option, and upgrading our rail system is one. Please support D,M&E rail upgrade.

Sincerely,

Ron Johanssen-1612 Glendale Hills Dr. N.E., Roch. Mn. 55906